
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Purpose and History

Representing the 10 states along the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC) was established in 1938 to develop plans for what was to become the present-day Great River Road. The Great River Road was established using the Great Road, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Natchez Trace as models for a series of roads designed and managed to welcome visitors seeking Mississippi River experiences as they journey through the states bordering the river. Member states include Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The National MRPC is responsible for the continued development, preservation, and promotion of the byway and its amenities. The MRPC cannot assert new regulations, infringe on private property, require adoption of new ordinances, or require participation in a corridor program.

Each state has its own individual commission. Iowa's Mississippi Parkway Planning Commission is established in Iowa Code section 308.1 and is responsible for promoting transportation and tourism along the 326-mile Iowa Great River Road, running from Iowa's southern border with Missouri to its northern border with Minnesota.

In Iowa, commissioners are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with one commissioner from each of the 10 counties bordering the Mississippi River. Technical members of the Commission include:

- The Iowa Department of Transportation.
- The Iowa Economic Development Authority.
- The Department of Natural Resources.
- The Iowa Tourism Office.
- The United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The Commission develops and implements a Corridor Management Plan. This Plan establishes signage requirements, restrictions on outdoor advertising, methods to market and promote the Corridor, and activities to involve the public in the planning and promotion of the Great River Road in Iowa.

State Funding

The Department of Transportation (DOT) receives an annual appropriation from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) for the Iowa MRPC. In the last 10 years, the annual appropriation has been \$40,000. This appropriation funds annual organization dues for the National MRPC and operational costs of the Iowa Commission.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [308.1](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

National Mississippi River Parkway Commission: www.mrpcmembers.com/index.php
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